

Serial No.: 10/608,852
Filing Date: June 27, 2003
Group Art Unit: 3618
Examiner: C. Bottorff
Atty. Docket No.: 104934-2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A binding system for mounting a rider's foot to a recreational riding device, comprising:
 - a base plate having an upper surface adapted to support a rider's foot, and an opposed, lower surface adapted to be oriented adjacent to and spaced apart from the recreation riding device;
 - a support base adapted to mate to a recreational riding device, the support base defining a central axis; and
 - a connecting element for mating the base plate to the support base, the connecting element being adapted to allow pivotal movement of the base plate about the central axis with respect to the support base.
2. (Original) The binding system of claim 1, wherein the connecting element comprises a support ring hingedly connected to the base plate to allow pivotal movement of the base plate, the support ring being adapted to mate to the support base.
3. (Original) The binding system of claim 2, wherein, at an interface between the support ring and the base plate, the support ring includes at least one slot formed therein for receiving at least one pin member formed on the base plate, the at least one slot and pin member being effective to prevent rotation between the base plate and the support ring.
4. (Original) The binding system of claim 2, wherein each of an inner surface of the support ring and an outer surface of the support base includes cooperating surface features formed thereon and effective to prevent rotational movement of the support ring with respect to the support base.
5. (Original) The binding system of claim 1, further comprising at least one compression member adapted to mate to at least one of the lower surface of the base plate and a recreational riding device, the at least one compression member being effective to compress between the base plate and the recreational riding device in response to a force applied to at least one of the base plate and the recreational riding device.

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6. (Original) The binding system of claim 5, wherein first, second, third, and fourth compression members are mated to the lower surface of the base plate.
7. (Original) The binding system of claim 6, wherein at least one of the compression members is removably mated to the base plate.
8. (Original) The binding system of claim 6, wherein each of the first, second, third, and fourth compression members are spaced substantially equidistantly from one another and from a central axis of the base plate.
9. (Original) The binding system of claim 5, wherein the at least one compression member is removably mated to the base plate.
10. (Original) The binding system of claim 1, wherein the base plate includes at least one flexible attachment member adapted to engaging a rider's foot.
11. (Original) The binding system of claim 1, wherein the base plate includes an engagement element formed thereon for mating with a corresponding engagement element formed on a boot worn by the rider.
12. (Original) The binding system of claim 1, further comprising at least one locking member adapted to prevent pivotal movement of the base plate in a particular direction about the central axis.
13. (Currently Amended) A binding support system for mounting a rider's foot to a recreational riding device, comprising:
 - a base plate having a first surface adapted to be positioned adjacent to and spaced apart from a surface of a recreational riding device, and a second surface adapted to support the rider's foot; and
 - at least one connecting element adapted to connect the base plate to the recreational riding device such that the base plate is capable of pivotal movement about a fixed central axis.

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14. (Original) The binding support system of claim 13, further comprising a support base having a first end adapted to mount upon the recreational riding device, and a second end adapted to be oriented adjacent the rider's foot, the fixed central axis extending between the first and second ends of the support base, wherein the base plate includes a central opening adapted to surround the support base and the connecting element is adapted to connect the base plate to the support base.

15. (Original) The binding support system of claim 13, further comprising at least one compression member adapted to compress between the base plate and the recreational riding device in response to a force applied to at least one of the base plate and the recreational riding device.

16. (Currently Amended) The binding support system of claim 15, wherein the at least one compression member is adapted to mate ~~mated~~ to at least one of the base plate and the recreational riding device.

17. (Original) The binding support system of claim 14, wherein the connecting element comprises a support ring connected to the base plate to prevent rotational movement of the base plate with respect to the support ring, and a second portion mated to the support base.

18. (Original) The binding support system of claim 17, wherein a peripheral portion of the support ring is convex and interfaces with an inner, concave wall of the base plate that defines a central aperture of the base plate, the interface being effective to allow pivotal movement of the base plate with respect to the support ring.

19. (Original) The binding support system of claim 17, wherein, at an interface between the support ring and the base plate, the support ring includes at least one slot formed therein for receiving at least one pin member formed on the base plate, the at least one slot and pin member being effective to prevent rotational movement between the base plate and the support ring.

20. (Original) The binding support system of claim 17, wherein each of an inner surface of the support ring and an outer surface of the support base includes cooperating surface features formed

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thereon and effective to prevent rotational movement of the support ring with respect to the support base.

21. (Original) The binding support system of claim 16, wherein first, second, third, and fourth compression members are mated to a lower surface of the base plate.
22. (Original) The binding support system of claim 16, wherein at least one of the compression members is removably mated to the base plate.
23. (Original) The binding support system of claim 13, wherein the base plate includes at least one binding adapted to engaging the rider's foot.
24. (Original) A recreational riding device, comprising:
 - an elongate board member having upper and lower surfaces;
 - at least one binding support component comprising a base plate having an upper surface configured to support a rider's foot, and a lower surface configured to be oriented adjacent to and spaced a distance apart from the elongate board member;
 - a support base removably mated to the elongate board member; and
 - a connecting element adapted to connect the base plate to the support base and to allow pivotal movement of the base plate about the central axis with respect to the elongate board.
25. (Original) The recreational riding device of claim 24, further comprising at least one compression member mated to at least one of the base plate and the recreational riding device and adapted to compress between the base plate and the recreational riding device in response to a force applied to at least one of the base plate and the recreational riding device.
26. (Original) The recreational riding device of claim 24, wherein the at least one binding support component includes a binding member adapted to support the rider's foot.

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27. (Original) The recreational riding device of claim 24, further comprising at least one locking element effective to prevent pivotal movement of the base plate with respect to the elongate board member in a particular direction.
28. (Original) The recreational riding device of claim 27, wherein the locking element is disposed between the base plate and the elongate board member.
29. (New) A suspension system for supporting a foot, comprising:
a first member having an upper surface adapted to support a foot and an opposed lower surface;
a second member positioned a distance apart from the lower surface of the first member and having upper and lower surfaces;
a connecting element positioned between the lower surface of the first member and the upper surface of the second member and adapted to allow pivotal movement of the first member about an axis with respect to the second member.
30. (New) The suspension system of claim 29, further comprising at least one compression member disposed between the lower surface of the first member and the upper surface of the second member, the at least one compression member being adapted to compress between the first and second members upon pivotal movement of the first member about the axis.
31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the at least one compression member is adapted to control pivotal movement of the first member about the axis.
32. (New) The system of claim 30, further comprising a plurality of compression members that together substantially prevent rotation of the first member about the axis.
33. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the at least one compression member is removably disposed between the first and second members.

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34. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein at least a portion of the connecting element is convex and at least a portion of the first member is concave for receiving the convex portion of the connecting element to allow pivotal movement therebetween.
35. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the connecting element comprises a ball-and-socket connection formed between the first and second members.
36. (New) A suspension system for supporting a foot, comprising:
a first member having an upper surface adapted to support a foot and an opposed lower surface;
a second member and positioned a distance apart from the lower surface of the first member and pivotally coupled to the first member about at least one axis;
at least one compression element positioned between the lower surface of the first member and the upper surface of the second member and adapted to control pivotal movement between the first and second members.
37. (New) The suspension system of claim 36, wherein the first and second members are pivotally coupled by a ball-and-socket connection.
38. (New) The suspension system of claim 36, wherein the at least one compression element is removably disposed between the first and second members.
39. (New) The suspension system of claim 36, wherein the at least one compression element is formed from an elastomeric polymer.
40. (New) The suspension system of claim 36, further comprising a plurality of compression members that together substantially prevent rotation of the first member about the axis.